

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the above amendments and the following remarks.

B. Claim Status

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to add the second radially inward pointing rim of the cylindrical sleeve. This second radially inward pointing rim is illustrated in the Figures by reference character 3. Thus, the cylindrical sleeve now has two radially inward-pointing rims. The two inward pointing rims are at opposite ends of the cylindrical sleeve. The cylindrical sleeve with its two inward pointing rims forms the outside of the captive structure unit recited in the claims.

As is brought out in more detail below, this specific structure for the cylindrical sleeve clearly distinguishes over the cited references.

C. Prior Art Rejection

Claims 1 and 4-7 and 10 had been rejected as being anticipated by Muntnich; and claims 2 and 3 had been rejected as being obvious over a combination of Muntnich and Bauer.

As noted above, claim 1 has been recited to further define the cylindrical sleeve as having two inwardly pointing rims and the sleeve with the two inward pointing rims defines the outside of the captive structure.

Turning to Muntnich, it will be noted that neither elements 2 nor 3 of Muntnich have two inwardly pointing rims which, in conjunction with the remaining portion, form the outside of the captive structure.

As previously noted, Muntnich's bearing is oriented in a wholly different manner than the present invention in that roller bodies 1 take axial forces and roller bodies 4 takes radial forces. In contrast, in the present invention, roller bodies 9 take radial forces and roller

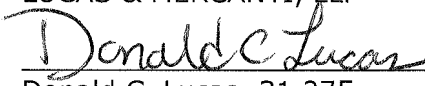
bodies 12 take axial forces. In any event, it appears that the Examiner has turned the structure of Muntnich on its side and takes the position that roller bodies 1 take radial forces and roller bodies 4 take axial forces. Following the Examiner's logic, however, it can be seen that neither sleeve 2 nor 3 in Muntnich has two inwardly pointing rims which form the outside of a captive structure. Even if the Examiner takes the position that end 7 in Figure 1 of Muntnich is an inwardly pointing rim, structure 7 does not form the outside of the captive structure, since element 7 is inside end 8 of flange 9.

As noted in the Specification, one of the unique aspects of the present invention is its simple geometry as pointed out in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4.

The secondary reference of Bauer does not teach the claimed structure of the present invention and, thus, it is respectfully submitted that the references taken alone or in combination do not teach or suggest claim 1 as amended herein.

F. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,
LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP
By: 
Donald C. Lucas, 31,275
Attorney for Applicant(s)
475 Park Avenue South, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Tel. # 212-661-8000

DCL/ns